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NEWS LETTER.
June, 1974.

V.U.F.O.R.S. - CHANGE OF POLICY

In Respect to General Meetings.

The Committee has been obliged to consider the Society's policy in relation to General Meetings, in view of the generally poor attendances during at least our last six meetings.

Although at least two of such meetings have featured lectures by scientists on the UFO subject. (including Dr. J.A. Hynek) and have been well advertised, the revenue obtained from admission charges have not been sufficient to more than partially cover the rental of the hall.

Since the Society operates as a non-profit organisation and has very little reserve funds, it is obvious that this trend must be arrested to save the Society from insolvency.

Consequently, the Committee has determined that the meeting to be held on June 14, will be the last scheduled meeting and that subsequent meetings will be called from time to time by notice to members, and as finances permit.

The new policy will also release the Committee members from the time-consuming duty of preparing an agenda for General Meetings and permit more time to be spent in other Society duties such as correspondence and magazine preparation and issue.

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DISCUSSION GROUPS

The Committee is anxious for members to participate more actively in the affairs of the Society.

It is planned to hold informal Discussion Groups and to form Sub-Committees to investigate various aspects of the U.F.O. Problem.

Members interested, are requested to write to the Secretary, at Box 43, Moorabbin, 3189.

The Committee would also be pleased to hear from members able and willing to assist with correspondence and other duties of a Secretarial nature.

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BIG U.F.O. FLAP IN THE U.S.

UFOs are again carrying out their mysterious activities in America. The following reports have been gleaned from the Australian press.

Sep. 1. At Albany, Georgia, police reported seeing five UFOs. Three of the objects were about five miles ahead of two others. The objects changed colours as they moved through the night, flashing blue, yellow and green.

Sep. 3. For the fourth straight day, UFOs were reported in Georgia. Two policemen said they spotted a "white glowing object" with blue lights speeding across the sky in Manchester, Ga. They said the craft had a "blue and white light on either side and something hanging underneath".

Sep. 17. Mr. Ress Clanton observed a big golden egg come out of the sky at controlled speed and burnt a hole 12 inches long by five feet deep in the ground on a farm in Griffin, Georgia. A soil chemist sent to the site said the ground temperature in the hole was more than 200 degrees when he made his examination more than 2 hours after the landing.

Sep. 18. Farmer Ray Lawhorn took several shots at a UFO descending in Griffin. He said he was awakened about 2 am by "a sound like locusts and a bright light outside the house.

"It was gold and lit up. It came down like an umbrella - it just gradually came down. I grabbed my rifle because it looked like it was coming towards the house. I shot at it about three or four times and it just disappeared into the ground".

Sep. 29. Sheriff Nathan Cunningham of Obion County, Tenn., saw three UFOs:

"It had a big bright white light in the centre and it had red, green and blue-looking lights around it".

Cunningham said he saw two UFOs hover over a Hornbeak riding ring then disappear early in the night. When he arrived home later, Cunningham said his phone was ringing constantly. As he looked outside, a third UFO passed by. He said at least 20 callers reported similar sightings.

Oct. 3. Eddie Webb, 45, truckdriver, of Greenville, Missouri, was blinded for several hours following what he claimed was an attack by a UFO. He said he saw a bright light or aluminium object approaching fast behind him while driving a semi-trailer.

"Then I stuck my head out of the window and a large ball of fire struck me in the face. My glasses fell off and I couldn't see. But I got the truck stopped".

Dr. Harley Rulledge, a university physicist examined the glasses and stated: "It appeared they were heated internally".

Oct. 11. Two Mississippi shipyard workers, Charles Rickson, 42, and Calvin Parker, 19, were fishing from an old pier on the west bank of the Pascagoula River about 7 p.m. when they noticed a strange craft about two miles away emitting a bluish haze. They said it moved closer and then appeared to hover about three or four feet above the water then "three whatever-they-were came out, either floating or walking, and carried us into the ship", police quoted Hickson as saying.

Sheriff Fred Diamond, of Pascagoula, said the men were shaking "all over" when they came to him. "They were on the verge of heart attacks", he said. Sheriff Diamond recorded Hickson's story by tape recorder.

"The creatures were wearing no clothes. Their skin was wrinkled and pinkish grey in colour. They had big eyes, pointed ears, pointed noses and no toes. Where the mouth should have been was a small hole. None of the creatures spoke to me in anything that was understandable. There was just a deep rumble from the throat of one. Something that looked like an electronic eye peered at me for a long time. I was terrified".

Sheriff Diamond said: "We took tests and neither of them had been drinking. A doctor who examined them said they were in such a state of shock the quicker they forgot about their experience the better".

Twelve other residents reported seeing a strange object in the sky at the time of the incident, but the nearby Kessler USAF Base reported no radar contact.

Dr. James Harder, University of California engineer, hypnotised the men and his examination convinced him that "it was no hoax". Harder said: "I was able to regress each of them into the experience. Their reaction of fear and terror was evidence to me beyond a reasonable doubt that they were reliving an experience". An experience, added Harder, that was so frightening that both men were on the verge of heart attacks."

While Parker could not give a complete account because he had lost consciousness when taken aboard the craft, said Harder, Hickson "was so terrorised that I couldn't take him through the whole experience. I had to break off the hypnotic experience at a point where it became too painful for him", he said.

The men were also examined by Dr. Allen Hynek, Northwestern University astronomer, who said: "These are not imbalanced people. They're not crackpots. There was definitely something here that was not terrestrial".

According to one report, Hynek stated: "There is no question in my mind that these men had a very terrifying experience. Under no circumstances should they be ridiculed. Let's protect these men".

Another report said that Hynek said flatly the craft was from another planet. "Where they are coming from and why they were here is a matter of conjecture. But the fact that they were here on this planet is beyond a reasonable doubt".

(Cont'd.)

The Pascagoula Case (cont'd).

"Where they beyond reasonable doubt".

Perhaps the one man in this particular incident who doesn't quite know what's going on is Sheriff Diamond, who has been swamped with sightings since the incident - "almost 2,000", a harried secretary at the sheriff's office said. Diamond threatened he would seek Presidential intervention if somebody didn't do something about the strange objects that have invaded the skies over the southern states of the U.S.

"People down here are entitled to know what is going on", he said. "People are beginning to panic". * See another page for report on lie detector test.

Some of the reports following the Pascagoula incident include:

* The next night in Louisiana, about 150 miles north west of Pascagoula, a group of lawmen chased five strange flying objects through 12 miles of pine forest. Said Deputy Sheriff Michael Moore: "Our deputies spotted 5 of them and a bunch of witnesses saw them too. They took off after them and they were swooping down and then vanishing above the pines. One of our deputies was scared pretty bad. He turned on the flashing red lights on the top of his car and they came down at his patrol car. He turned the flashing lights off and they vanished like in a cloud".

* Perth Daily News reports: (Oct 17)

"In Moscow Soviet scientists say they have picked up unusual radio signals from space and do not rule out that they come from another civilisation. Tass Newsagency says the signals, of a type never heard before, come in pulses after definite lapses of time, last for several minutes and are repeated several times a day. Tass says scientists have ruled out the possibility that the signals are from satellites launched from earth".

Two military policemen patrolling an air base at Savannah, Georgia, said they were dive-bombed by a 'saucer-shaped flying object'. Sgt. Ramdy Shade 23, said, "I could hardly see through the windshield because of the red and white flashes of the saucers lights, just a few feet above us. When it got closer we could see the lights were clustered underneath a metallic-looking saucer-shaped object. The saucer didn't make a sound. I couldn't see anything like port holes or windows. It was scary. Private Burns and I just sat there amazed."

An Air Force spokesman: "There is no official explanation. Nothing showed on our radar".

John Lane, a taxi driver from Gulfport, Miss., told police that a blue object landed in front of his cab, stalling it and causing the radio to go dead. He said he heard a tapping sound on his windshield and saw a flesh-coloured creature with a crab-like hand.

In Delaware, a state police helicopter chased a yellow and orange UFO into Maryland before losing it. Georgia State Trooper Sam Taylor, USAF veteran with Vietnam experience, described what he saw as absolutely mystifying. "The flying object I saw was oblong, but not thin enough to be cigar shaped. It seemed solid and gave off a gentle white glow. What I saw was certainly no air-plane, helicopter or natural phenomena." Pilots at the Raleigh County at Beckley, West Virginia, saw a mysterious night-flying object that turned red, then green, then white. Said one pilot who chased the object in a small plane: "I don't think it was a plane, because the whole thing would change colour at the same time".

In Falkeville, Alabama, policeman Jeff Greenshaw, responding to a call about a space-ship with blinking lights reported he found no craft, but did find a metallic creature in the middle of the road. Greenshaw said the creature moved like a robot, made no sound, had no features on its face and had a point on tip of its head.

A woman, hysterical and screaming, told Dayton, Ohio police, she saw an oblong object with blinking lights, kill two cows when it landed in a field. Her report was one of eighty sightings of UFOs that residents of West Central Ohio told police about on the same night. Along Interstate 75, in a three county area, the UFOs were described as "greyish discs with red and bluish green lights". Others were described as "orange coloured objects" and "limp-shaped objects". Some had "red lights around the rims, with a blue flame or flare coming out the bottom".

In Montgomery County, an officer reportedly took a black and white photograph of a red and green blinking UFO hovering over the village of Union for about 5 minutes.

The Governor of Ohio, John Gilligan, when asked about UFOs at a press conference at Columbus on October 17, said that he had seen one. He said: "I saw one, the other night so help me. It was a vertical beam of light, amber coloured, and I watched it for about 35 minutes. I frankly don't know what it was. I am absolutely serious. I saw this. It was not a plane, it was not a bird, it didn't wear a cape. I really don't know what it was."

USAF Chief of Staff, General George Brown, told a news conference in Chicago on October 17, that a UFO was blamed for starting an air-sea battle in which two Australian sailors were killed in the Vietnam war. General Brown said "I don't know if this story has ever been told, but they (UFOs) plagued us in Vietnam during the war. We didn't call them that. They could only be seen at night in certain places."

He said early in the summer of '68, there were a series of sightings which set off "quite a battle with an Australian destroyer taking a hit".

The General said the best answer the Air Force could find was "heavy temperature inversion" which apparently caused a return on a radar screen that moved about the same speed as a plane.

**Two Australian sailors were killed and 7 injured when three US Sparrow aircraft rockets hit HMAS Hobart off the coast of Vietnam on June 17, 1968. Damage to the \$40 million vessel was estimated at \$100,000. Later reports said the US planes also hit the US cruiser Boston and sank a US Navy patrol boat.

THE UNIVERSE IS TEEMING WITH LIFE!

By Franklin R. Ruehl Jr.

University of California, Los Angeles, CALIF., U.S.A.

Did the cryptic markings on the Peruvian plains of Nasca once serve as landing guides for ancient astronauts, as Erich von Daniken contends? Did Alan Smith, a fourteen-year-old Tulsa, Oklahoma youth, actually photograph a hovering UFO back in the summer of 1965?

The answers to these questions are unknown to me, but, by the same token, they are irrelevant to me. As a theoretical nuclear physicist who has scrutinizingly analysed the scientific data, I am fully convinced that this universe of ours is literally teeming with life. Hence, any proof afforded by affirmative answers to the foregoing questions is unnecessary to persuade me that extraterrestrial life exists.

It is indeed an unfortunate commentary upon our advanced technological society that only a scant percentage of representatives from the scientific community have been courageous in coming forth to express themselves on this distinctly eschatological subject.

Undoubtedly, fear of being stigmatised as some sort of atomic-age mountebank has deterred many a responsible physicist or astronomer from enunciating his considered opinion on this issue. If only more scientists would emerge from their insulated modules, if only the scientific establishment would extend its wholehearted imprimatur to objective investigations of UFO phenomena, then tangible and marked progress could be realised in culling the available data.

And just what is the 'scientific' evidence for life's existence beyond earth? First, there are at least 100 sextillion identifiable stars within range of our earthbound telescopes, with each possessing the potential to give vitalization to its own planetary system, and this number only represents what is observable to us within a relatively minor sector of the universe. Considering the universe's infinite vastness, the potential number of existing planets is virtually limitless.

But, confined to only the clutch of galaxies actually pinpointed by astronomers, a potential one septillion planets can be presumed to exist. If but a mere 1/1000th of 1% harbor the prerequisites for life as we know it, still 10 quintillion (1×10^{15}) possibilities remain.

Beyond that number, however, the proposition that life may exist in forms we cannot yet conceive of, based on systems other than our familiar oxygen-nitrogen foundation, must be considered. Far too many biologists have adapted the medieval stance that they know all there is to comprehend about which environmental conditions can or cannot lend support to life.

Yet, on this very planet, contradictions abound in sufficient quantity to cause us to ponder at what diverse life forms may have evolved elsewhere in the universe in supposedly hostile environs. If anaerobic bacteria can survive in airless vacuums, then why not on oxygen-free asteroids? If mites are able to subsist in methane-filled chambers in terrestrial laboratories, then why not in the Jovian welkin? Geneticists are only now beginning to unravel the mysteries of the key to human life, DNA, so how can they dare rule out other possible bases for alien life? They have not yet earned that right!

But, even a broad spectrum of life forms has developed throughout the cosmic expanses, is there any reason to believe that beings technologically superior to us indeed exist? Statistically, it would be most surprising if there are none! Earth is approximately 4.5 billion years old, yet the first traces of life did not appear until 2 billion years ago, or some 2.5 billion years following this planet's birth.

As this is the only example biologists have of life developing within our type of chemical milieu, there is no way to determine if that 2.5 billion year figure is typical of, extremely more rapid than, or considerably slower than that for other earthlike planets. In any event, the laws of probability predict that a bell-shaped, or Gaussian, distribution curve, would represent the time spans needed for various earthlike planets to exhibit their first pristine forms of life.

Where on this curve does the earth fall? At present, with nothing available for comparison, this question must stand unanswered. And, it is actually irrelevant. For, no matter where the earth falls on this curve, some planets will have started bearing life earlier than earth, and thus have the potential for harboring more advanced civilizations. And, the further to the right our planet lies on the curve, the greater the number of such possibilities.

Another significant variable to consider is the time span required for that initial spark of life to develop into an advanced technological civilization. On earth, 2 billion years were expended, but, elsewhere that interval may have been shorter, or, perhaps, even longer.

Of course, nothing is known of these critical time periods for the evolution of life and civilization for entirely different chemical systems. Only crude estimates can be rendered on the basis of differing rates for various classes of chemical reactions, so that yet another variable crops up.

Finally, it must be realised that other star systems made their debut upon the cosmic backdrop at other times, both before and after our own solar system. Hence, this represents a fourth variable to be reckoned with. A new graph, consisting of a series of overlapping Gaussian curves representing planets affected to varying degrees by these parameters must now be presented, as a more accurate depiction of the true state of affairs in the universe.

If point X, for example, signifies the planet earth when the atomic bomb had been developed, with relation to the birth of the first planet in the universe, then all planets to the left of X represent civilizations which have reached this technological milestone ahead of earth, with each civilization's age greater than our own in proportion to its distance leftward from point X. The conclusion is inescapable: a myriad of planets are serving as the habitat of societies far in advance of earth's (a disquieting thought, to say the least).

THE ZOO HYPOTHESIS

The continuing search for extraterrestrial life has so far failed to produce any results. American astronomer Carl Sagan thinks the reason is one of pure probability; he believes that only 0.1% of the technological civilizations that may exist in the Galaxy are, in fact, accessible to us.

Another explanation of the null results of searches for life has been put forward by Harvard student John Ball in "Icarus", Vol. 19, the international journal of solar system astronomy. He suggests that a supercivilization may be in control of the whole galaxy, and that we on earth are living in a galactic zoo. The perfect zookeeper does not make himself known to his charges, and thus we are unaware of his presence. Ball says:

"I believe that the only way we can understand the apparent non-interaction between 'them' and us is to hypothesise that they are deliberately avoiding interaction and that they have set aside the area in which we live as a zoo. The zoo hypothesis predicts that we shall never find them because they do not want to be found and they have the technological ability to insure this".

And an American scientist thinks that the spate of sightings in America last year, and in particular the widely publicised Pascagoula abduction incident in Mississippi, lends support to Ball's theory. From the Perth Sunday Times (2/12/73):

A prominent U.S. scientist said this week that the world was probably a cosmic zoo visited from time to time by "our keepers from outer space" to check on the inhabitants. Dr. John Harder, professor of engineering at the University of California at Berkeley, offered this explanation of the world news-making incident at Pascagoula, Miss., on Oct 11 when two men claimed to have been taken aboard a flying saucer.

Dr. Harder and Dr. J. Allen Hynek, chairman of the astronomy department of Northwestern University, examined Charles Hickson, 45, and Calvin Parker, 18, under hypnosis and warned that both men had obviously suffered a terrifying experience and their stories should be taken seriously.

"If this had been a hoax they could have told the same story under hypnosis that they told the police", Dr. Harder said. "But they could not have faked the terror factor - there is just no way. These men were held immobile due to fear of some external force until the robots could float to the pier and pick them up".

Dr. Harder said he believed the 'space visitors' were actually 'cosmic anthropologists'. He said his theory was that the planet Earth was a 'cosmic zoo shut off from the rest of the universe and every so often the keepers make a random sample check on the inhabitants of their interstellar zoo'....

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STUDY OF 1000 UFO REPORTS

M. Claude Poher, head of the rocket division of France's Space Studies Centre at Toulouse, has recently completed a four year study of UFO reports. He chose to examine 1000 "serious" reports including 200 from France. The data, processed by computer, provided these conclusions:

The phenomenon is world-wide. Observations are related to the cloudiness of the sky and the density of population. In 70% of the cases the phenomenon was witnessed by at least two people, sometimes by a whole town. More adults than children reported having seen UFOs. The witnesses belong to a very large range of professions. (M. Poher makes the point that scientists, if they are witnesses, prefer to report anonymously). About 70% of the witnesses saw the UFO at a distance of less than one km.

(cont'd)

STUDY OF 1000 UFO REPORTS. (cont'd)

Eight witnesses out of ten saw round objects, two out of ten saw elongated objects. Ufos were red-orange at night and a metallic colour by day. (70% of the observations were made at night) Circular UFOs are between 10 and 30 metres in diameter. UFOs are generally noiseless. The only people who heard any noise were less than 150 metres from the object.

One tenth of the UFOs were seen stationary. 20% moved off slowly. 50% moved rapidly and the rest moved at very high speed. In 50% of the cases the trajectories were abnormal, very different from those of known objects. About 20% of the reporters claimed the UFO had made a landing. M. Poher found the reports coherent whatever the nationality or sophistication of the observer. (New Scientist, 28/3/1974)

The Universe is Teeming with Life! (cont'd from Page 4)

Moreover, once a civilization enters the Atomic Age, its progress increases exponentially, so that a difference of 100 years can mean a tenfold increase in technological superiority. As an example, a 14th century Venetian would not have been overawed at the progress his 15th century counterpart had made, but an 1873 New Yorker suddenly transplanted to 1973 would certainly suffer severe future shock.

Imagine what a difference of 100, 1000, or even 1,000,000 years (insignificant on the geological time scale) would mean in terms of the capacity for intergalactic space travel. Within this context, there is no logical reason why we cannot accept Erich Von Daniken's assertion that ancient astronauts once explored this planet, or Alan Smith's claim of a UFO sighting. It is merely a matter of time (albeit perhaps as long as 1000 years) before we ourselves encounter alien civilizations in the vast recesses of this universe and come to realise how unique we are not.

SIGHTINGS.

'POWER LOSSES' IN WAKE OF UFOs.

Three Adelaide motorists reported "inexplicable" power losses from their cars after sighting UFOs last night.

About the same time the R.A.A.F. base at Edinburgh received "numerous" calls from Elizabeth and Woodside about UFO sightings.

Police at Elizabeth and Adelaide also received a few calls. The three motorists were travelling between Tungkillo and Woodside about 7.30. One of them, Peter Heningsen, 18, of Playford Road, Mitcham, said an object "bigger than a Jumbo Jet" hovered about 600 feet above the road. The object was spinning and sending out three white beams. Both his car and that of a friend had suffered a temporary power loss as the object hovered overhead. The object had remained still for a minute, and begun descending and then had moved off quickly. It had made no noise. Another motorist on the road, who described the object as "green and red and spinning with three beams" said power was "drained from his car".

Mr. E.O'Neill, 54, of Shannon Avenue, North Glenelg, said he saw an object moving in circles at about 35,000 feet at five past eight. The object had been a faint orange color and had flashed a bright light several times.

It had remained overhead for about five minutes, and had then moved slowly to the east before disappearing. His son and wife had also seen the object.

Four Elizabeth schoolgirls were "terrified" last night by a "brilliant blue light" which they said had hovered about 100 feet above them for more than three minutes.

One of the girls, June Wright, 14, of Chesterman Street, Elizabeth Field, said the "light" came down towards them as they walked along Elizabeth way. We saw it up in the sky about 6.30 and while we watched it came down and stopped about 100 feet away from us and just stayed there," June said.

June's mother said her daughter was close to hysterics.

The Bureau of Meteorology said last night there was "no apparent reason for sky lights". The RAAF said the reports would be investigated. There were no flights from the base that night.

Glowing lights also were seen over a wide area of Victoria and N.S.W. early in the morning.

However, Mount Stromlo Observatory said the sightings were probably the planets Jupiter and Venus.

MYSTERY LIGHT FOLLOWS CAR

Five men travelling from Adelaide to Mildura, were accompanied by a bright light which hovered over them for several miles near Lake Cullulera, 36 miles from Mildura on the Sturt Highway.

The driver of the car said yesterday, he first thought the light was a bright star. "However we soon realised it wasn't a star because it seemed very low and would fade away and then come back again real bright" he said. "We first noticed it after we all heard a funny noise. Thinking it was something to do with the car, I slowed down. It was then we saw the bright light in the sky. It was real scary, we didn't know what to do or expect." He said that when he pushed the accelerator of his car to go faster, it wouldn't. "I don't know if that had anything to do with the bright light, but the car appeared to be being held back by a strong force. All we did was to keep driving, and stay frozen stiff while we watched the light". The light was so bright at times they couldn't keep looking at it. When it faded, it was barely visible - just a little dot with a long tail connected. All little lights surrounded it. One man said "It just makes you wonder whether there are people on other planets. Following yesterday morning's experience, I am willing to believe there are"
